

First I remind the legislators that they all took an oath to support the Connecticut constitution, of which Article I, Section 15 says, "Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state." That states in plainer English what the 2nd Amendment of the United States says about the right to keep and bear arms, Bills HB 6667 and HB 6816 impose significant infringements of the right to keep and bear arms and violate both the state and federal constitutions..

**HB 6667**, the governor's bill is so long and comprehensive, that even if it did contain some reasonable restriction on the right to keep and bear arms, which I do not concede, that significantly limits gun violence without imposing unreasonable burdens on law-abiding gun owners, a lot of unreasonable restrictions will be dragged only that could not have been passed separately. At a bare minimum, the bill should be broken up into pieces before the legislature votes on the various provisions.

The proposed ban on the open carry of firearms outside the home will do nothing to control gun violence and is an unnecessary limit on the right to carry arms. With the extensive background checks that are done both when a person applies for a gun permit and when he purchases a firearm, the proposed 10-day waiting period will do nothing to control gun violence and indeed may cause fatal violence against the purchaser while waiting to take possession of the means to defend himself or herself effectively. The proposed ban on carrying a firearm in any place where alcoholic beverages are sold would not only prevent the use of a firearm in self-defense in liquor stores and bars, but also in many family restaurants. In general gun-free zones not only fail to prevent violence, they actually promote gun violence by sending a message to anyone intending gun violence that the targets will be defenseless. That is why nearly all mass murders by gunfire occur in so-called gun free zones. Criminals do not obey gun-free zone laws because they do not obey any laws that they can get away violating.

The proposed extra requirements only federally licensed gun stores and on firearm instructors are so burdensome that they will drive many of them out of business. In fact, that seems to be their intent. In particular, requiring a firearms instructor to give two hours of training on the gun laws of Connecticut in effect has them doing an attorney's work without an attorney's training. Many will feel compelled to contract an attorney to give the students the legal advice, which will be an expense that many will either not afford to pay or force them to limit training to affluent clients. The requirement of two hours of live fire training is also way more than is needed to teach the safe handling of firearms and is an extra expense that will tend to make it so that only the affluent can afford the training required to get a firearms permit. The constitution does not say that only the affluent have the right to keep and bear arms. In fact it is in poor neighborhoods where there is the most need for firearms for self-defense.

**HB 6816** proposes a study on the feasibility of requiring firearms to microstamp information about the firearms on all spent brass casings. Such a study would be an expensive waste. The results are predictable. Even if the firing pin of a firearm could be micro-engraved to microstamp the brass on each fired cartridge, the engraving would soon wear away and be useless. Even if that problem could be solved, the cost of the process would be so expensive

that it would make some gun manufacturers unable to sell firearms in Connecticut and make the firearms that can be sold so expensive that only the affluent can purchase them. Again, the right to keep and bear arms should not be limited to the affluent.

The bill also restricts the right to sell or even possess body armor. So not only is active-self defense restricted, so is passive self-defense? What next, no hiding behind a bullet-resistant barrier? Is the legislature in favor of defenseless people being slaughtered?

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